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New push in N.Y. to force gunmakers to adopt microstamping

By MARINA VILLENEUVE and MAYSOON KHAN
Associated Press/Report for America

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York this week became the second state to enact a law intended to force firearms manufacturers to adopt microstamping, a technology in which guns imprint tiny codes on ammunition cartridges as they are fired — creating a unique signature police could use to help solve crimes. Big questions remain, though, about whether the new law will actually result in such guns being offered for sale. California passed a similar law 15 years ago, and since then no handgun capable of microstamping has been introduced for sale in that state. Instead, gunmakers have pulled new handgun models from the California market rather than equip them with the technology, which critics say is costly, unworkable and of questionable value as a crimefighting tool. Both states are now trying new tactics to pressure manufacturers. Backers of New York's new law say it has a chance to succeed where California initially failed.

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A bullet casing showing identification codes, at center, is shown through a microscope at a news conference at the Los Angeles Police Academy, Aug. 14, 2007.

Associated Press

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New push in N.Y. to force gunmakers to adopt microstamping



New York Governor Kathy Hochul, left, talks with Congressman Tom Suozzi, D-N.Y., before the New York's governor primary debate at the studios of WCBS2-TV, Tuesday, June 7, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

"The New York legislature has set up a more robust system that will produce a set of conditions and evaluations that doesn't rely on the gun industry to give them a thumbs up or thumbs down," said David Pucino, of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

A pair of engineers in New Hampshire are credited with inventing microstamping as a potential law enforcement tool three decades ago. The process involves engraving a serial number inside the firearm, on the tip of the firing pin or breech face.

When the gun fires, that unique number or code is stamped on the shell casing. Law enforcement investigators could then pick up casings at crime scenes and turn to a database that could indicate which gun fired the round and where that weapon was last sold by a licensed firearms dealer.

"The issue here is providing a forensic tool to identify

a firearm when a firearm is not recovered," said microstamping co-inventor Todd Lizotte.

Peter Diaczuk, a firearms expert with John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said there are unanswered issues that still need to be resolved before microstamping becomes a valuable law enforcement tool. It's unclear, for example, who would maintain any database capable of linking serial numbers on recovered shell casings to firearms.

Diaczuk said he's also worried about a lack of research on microstamping and how long the engraving technology lasts before it wears out. He said worried supporters are exaggerating how well microstamping is proven to work. "This is absolutely not a panacea, not a magic bullet that's going to make gun crime go down dramatically," Diaczuk said.

But gun control groups say the technology could still be a valuable law enforcement tool.

"The firearm, gun industry has set up an idea that it

has to work 100% all of the time, and that's not a reality for any technology we have," said Ari Davis of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

California's law, passed in 2007, was intended to phase in the technology by requiring it in all new handgun models. The law was stalled by legal challenges, but even after a court upheld it in 2018 — ruling microstamping was technologically possible and reasonably affordable, at a cost of \$3.00 to \$10.00 per gun — manufacturers balked.

Rather than introduce new models, they have continued to sell older designs previously approved for sale.

"What the gun industry has done is said: 'We're not going to sell any new models of guns that fall under the statute,'" said Dru Stevenson, a firearms policy expert and professor at South Texas College of Law Houston. "The problem with the statute is that it grandfathered in too many existing models."

California lawmakers are now trying tweaks. New weapons used by law enforcement agencies in the state must utilize microstamping starting in 2023. Another law would gradually whittle down the list of noncompliant handguns approved for sale in California by removing three older models for every new, microstamp-equipped model put into the market, starting July 1.

New York's law takes a different approach. Its microstamping law covers all newly manufactured handguns, not just new models, meaning gunmakers would only be able to bypass the rule until they depleted existing stock.

The gun lobby has continued to argue that the costs and challenges of adopting microstamping are much steeper than supporters portray.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation says the technology actually costs \$200 per gun. Ruger CEO Michael O. Fifer told investors in October 2014 that the gun manufactur-

er couldn't make microstamping work.

Gun advocacy groups have argued that criminals could switch out handgun parts to avoid microstamping.

"It is too easy to modify, too easy to make changes so the numbers wouldn't be visible," New York State Rifle and Pistol Association Executive Director Tom King said. "The reason the state is doing this is because firearm manufacturers said they wouldn't make microstamping pistols for one state. This is a backdoor method for banning firearms in New York."

The industry has argued that the market for semiautomatic pistols in California is so lucrative, no rational business would sacrifice it unless it really couldn't find a way to implement the technology.

Half a dozen gun manufacturers, including Ruger and Smith & Wesson, didn't respond to emailed requests for comment about whether they'll adopt the technology for guns sold in New York.

The law's supporters hope the market pressure created by two big states will be enough to get gunmakers to adopt the technology. New York alone sees monthly sales of nearly 10,000 firearms that could eventually fall under the law, according to Christian Heyne, vice president of the gun control group Brady.

"The ripple effect of being able to force the industry to use this technology could have dramatic impacts across the country," Heyne said.

Whatever changes happen won't come quickly. New York envisions a slow roll-out for its new law.

State officials will spend six months investigating whether microstamping is as technologically viable as its supporters claim. If the answer is "yes," the state has given itself four years to set up regulations. After that, dealers who sell firearms that violate the law could face fines or the loss of their license. □

Salvadoran leader rebuffs Blinken effort to bolster summit

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and
JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was the sort of diplomatic rebuff a small country like El Salvador generally can rarely afford to make.

In the run-up to this week's Summit of Americas in Los Angeles, senior U.S. officials frantically worked the phones seeking to boost attendance amid threats of a boycott from Mexico's president and other leftist leaders over the exclusion of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Among those efforts, the State Department sent a message that Secretary of State Antony Blinken wanted to speak with President Nayib Bukele last weekend, a rare show of comity from a Biden administration that for months had been blasting the Central American leader as a power-hungry populist.

"Participating in the Summit is a very good opportunity for President Bukele to explain his perspective to the Salvadoran community in LA and Joe Biden," Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols wrote in a message to Bukele's ambassador in Washington.

In the end, Bukele didn't take the bait and the call never happened, said two people close to the Salvadoran president, who in-



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly as the Summit of the Americas continues in Los Angeles, Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

sisted on being given anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomatic dealings.

Another request to set up a call with Blinken, made through the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, was similarly rebuffed, according to the two people, one of whom showed The Associated Press a copy of the messages.

The concerted effort by Blinken to reach out to one of the Biden administration's frequent targets in Latin America underscores the lengths to which U.S. officials went to avoid an

embarrassing flop at the summit.

It also demonstrates how controversial leaders like Bukele, who skirted criticism from the Trump administration in exchange for wholesale support of its crackdown on migration, have struggled to adjust to a return to a traditional foreign policy under Biden.

Bukele is one of 11 Western Hemisphere leaders who have stayed away from the summit, which is taking place on U.S. soil for the first time since it was launched in 1994.

Some, like the leaders of Mexico, Honduras and Grenada, are doing so to protest the exclusion of fellow leftists from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Others, like Bukele and Guatemala's Alejandro Giammattei, are frustrated with Washington's finger wagging over corruption and human rights abuses. "It's clear the Biden administration wasn't sensitive to how these leaders were feeling," said Michael Shifter, who recently retired as head of the Washington-based Inter-American

Dialogue. "You can be tough on corruption, but there's a tradeoff, and you shouldn't expect others to play along just because there's a phone call from the White House. That's the reality that the Biden team doesn't really grasp."

Shifter pointed out that both Bukele and Giammattei were not among the more than 100 leaders invited to attend last year's Summit for Democracy, which included leaders of authoritarian bent like Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines.

"These are things these leaders don't forget," Shifter said.

The State Department declined to comment when asked Thursday about the outreach to Bukele.

But Bukele's lack of a response to Blinken's request for a phone call convinced U.S. officials there wasn't much they could do to improve relations and the U.S. eventually dropped the diplomatic outreach, said a person familiar with the effort.

Bukele has won strong support from Salvadorans by taking a tough stance against gangs and going after traditional politicians in charge during decades of corrupt rule that followed the end of the country's bloody civil war. □

U.S. Military: 5 Marines killed in aircraft crash in desert

By JULIE WATSON and
LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — All five Marines on board an Osprey aircraft were killed when it crashed in the California desert near the Arizona border, the Marine Corps said Thursday, a day after the accident.

The MV-22 Osprey went down at 12:25 p.m. Wednesday during training in a remote area in Imperial County near the community of Glamis, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) east of San Diego and about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from

Yuma, Arizona.

The aircraft was based at Camp Pendleton with Marine Aircraft Group 39 and was part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing headquartered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego.

"We mourn the loss of our Marines in this tragic mishap," Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Gering, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, said in a statement. "Our hearts go out to their families and friends as they cope with this tragedy."

The statement said as a

matter of policy, the Marine Corps would be contacting family members before identifying those who were killed. Efforts to recover equipment were underway and an investigation into the cause of the crash has started. No additional details were provided in the Marine Corps statement.

The Marines were participating in a routine live-fire training over their gunnery range in the Imperial Valley desert, said Marine Maj. Mason Englehart, spokesperson for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The Osprey, a hybrid air-



A MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft flies at Marine Corps Air Facility at Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Va., on Aug. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

plane and helicopter, flew in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but has been criticized by some as unsafe. It is designed to take off like a helicopter, rotate its propellers to a horizontal position and cruise like an

airplane.

Versions of the aircraft are flown by the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

Prior to Wednesday's crash, Osprey crashes had caused 46 deaths, the Los Angeles Times reported. □

Replacing benefits of Snake River dams would cost billions

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The benefits provided by four giant hydroelectric dams on the lower Snake River in Washington state can be replaced if the dams are breached to save endangered salmon runs, according to a new report released Thursday. But it would be expensive. Finding other ways to provide electricity, irrigation and enabling commerce would cost between \$10.3 billion and \$27.2 billion, said the report commissioned by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. The draft report does not make any recommendations on whether the four dams should be breached. A decision on that divisive issue is expected later. Instead, the report allows the public, tribes, river users and other stakeholders to provide input over the next month that will inform that decision. “We continue to approach the question of breaching with open minds and without a predetermined decision,” Inslee and Murray said in a press release. “Every community in the Pacific Northwest knows



In this May 15, 2019 photo, the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River is seen from the air near Colfax, Wash.

the value and importance of our iconic salmon runs—and every community recognizes the importance of salmon to our economy and cultural heritage,” they said. “We each remain firmly committed to saving our salmon.” Breaching the dams would significantly improve the ability of salmon and steelhead to swim from their inland spawning grounds to the Pacific Ocean, where they spend most of their lives, and then back to their

original spawning grounds to procreate and die, the report said. Major benefits of the dams include making the Snake River navigable up to Lewiston, Idaho, allowing barges to carry wheat and other crops to ocean ports. Eliminating the dams would require truck and rail transportation improvements to move crops, the report said. The dams also generate electricity, provide irrigation water for farmers and

recreation opportunities for people, the report said. The dams have many supporters, including two GOP members of Congress representing eastern Washington state. The dams are also supported by barge companies, farmers and other business interests. Breaching them would require an act of Congress. Republican U.S. Reps. Dan Newhouse and Cathy McMorris Rodgers of eastern Washington introduced a bill on Thursday to pro-

tect the dams, which are located in their districts. “Breaching the four lower Snake River dams would be harmful to our communities, our environment, and our economy,” Newhouse said. “What’s alarming is trying to breach them at a time when families in Eastern Washington are paying record-high energy costs just to keep the lights on this summer,” McMorris Rodgers said. But the chairman of the Yakama Nation said the dams must be breached. “Our people are salmon people,” said tribal council chairman Delano Saluskin. “When the salmon thrive, we thrive; but when they suffer, our people suffer too.” Exploring the Columbia River Basin in 1805, Lewis and Clark wrote of waterways so full with salmon that you could all but walk across on their backs. In the late 1800s, up to 16 million salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia River Basin every year to spawn. Over the next century and a half, overfishing whittled that number down. By the early 1950s, just under 130,000 Chinook were returning to the Snake River. □

Associated Press



Law enforcement officials stand near the scene of a shooting at Columbia Machine, Inc., in Smithsburg, Md., Thursday, Jan. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
Associated Press
SMITHSBURG, Md. (AP) — A man opened fire at a manufacturing business in rural western Maryland on Thursday, killing three people before the suspect and a

state trooper were wounded in a shootout, authorities said. The Washington County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that three victims were found dead at Columbia Machine Inc.

Authorities: 3 dead, trooper wounded in Maryland shooting

in Smithsburg and a fourth victim was critically injured. The suspect then fled in a vehicle and was tracked down by Maryland State Police, according to the news release. The suspect and a trooper were wounded in an exchange of gunfire, the sheriff's office said. Both were being treated for their injuries. Gov. Larry Hogan, who was briefed on the shooting, said that the man opened fire on troopers before at least one officer returned fire and wounded the suspect. “The suspect fired and shot the state trooper in the shoulder, who then re-

turned fire and shot him,” Hogan told reporters. Authorities did not have information on whether the suspect and victims were employees of the company where the shooting took place, Sheriff's Office Sgt. Carly Hose said at a news conference. Family members of workers at the manufacturer were gathering at a fire station in downtown Smithsburg Thursday evening waiting for information on their loved ones. They declined to speak to a reporter. Several hours after the shooting, numerous law enforcement officers re-

mained at the scene. Police had closed off the road that runs past the Columbia Machine Inc. facility, and yellow tape blew in the wind outside the business. Messages left seeking comment with the company weren't immediately returned. Smithsburg, a community of nearly 3,000 people, is just west of the Camp David presidential retreat and about 75 miles (120 kilometers) northwest of Baltimore. The manufacturing facility was in a sparsely populated area northeast of the town's center with a church, several businesses and farmland nearby. □

Biden administration takes step to bolster Palestinian ties

By LAURIE KELLMAN and MATTHEW LEE

JERUSALEM (AP) — The United States is restoring a line of communication for the Palestinians that had been canceled by the Trump administration.

The move, announced Thursday before a possible visit by President Joe Biden to Israel and the occupied West Bank, is bureaucratic in nature. But it means the Palestinians will deal directly with the U.S. State Department in Washington rather than first go through the American ambassador to Israel.

In a statement, the newly renamed office said the move was meant to “strengthen our diplomatic reporting and public diplomacy engagement.”

“We felt that it was important to reintroduce separate reporting lines to Washington on Israeli and Palestinian issues, by our respective teams on the ground that focus on these issues,” according to the statement, which also said the U.S. was reinstating a system in place for decades before President Donald Trump’s decision. The move had been ex-



A U.S. flag flies at the United States consulate building in Jerusalem, March 4, 2019.

Associated Press

pected for months and the announcement had been postponed several times. But it falls short of Biden administration pledges and Palestinian demands for the U.S. to reopen its consulate in Jerusalem, which for decades had functioned as a de facto U.S. Embassy to the Palestinians.

Both the Palestinian Authority and Israel declined to comment. The Trump administration

shuttered that consulate in one of a series of controversial moves that favored Israel over the Palestinians. Those steps included recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital despite Palestinian claims that east Jerusalem become the capital of an eventual state, and moving the U.S. Embassy to the holy city from Tel Aviv. Under Biden, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has repeatedly promised to re-

open the Jerusalem consulate, which was established in 1844, well before the creation of the state of Israel. But Israel says such a move would challenge its sovereignty over the city. It was thought that such a reopening could help mend U.S. ties with the Palestinians that were ruptured under Trump. The U.S. has so far failed to reopen the consulate, apparently in fear of upsetting ties

with Israel or destabilizing its fragile coalition government.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has said there was no room in Jerusalem for another American mission. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it views the re-opening of the consulate as part of the international community’s commitments to ending Israel’s decades-long occupation of territories the Palestinians seek for their future state.

Dan Shapiro, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel who is now a distinguished fellow with the Atlantic Council, called Thursday’s move “an interim step by the Biden administration toward re-establishing a consulate in Jerusalem.”

The Biden administration has already moved to improve ties with the Palestinians, in part by restoring U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority and funding to the U.N. agency that deals with Palestinian refugees. It has also looked into ways that the Palestinian mission to Washington, closed under Trump, could be reopened, although there are congressional hurdles to such a step. □

Activists decry French retailer over Amazon deforestation

By JADE LE DELEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A Paris judge on Thursday ordered a mediation process to settle a legal dispute pitting environmental groups and representatives of Brazil’s Indigenous community against a major French retailer accused of selling beef linked to deforestation and land grabs in the Amazon rainforest. Several leading Indigenous representatives, including some wearing traditional headdresses, traveled from Brazil to the main Paris courthouse, where they held a demonstration to denounce international threats to their territories and attract public attention to cattle farming practices in the Amazon. Climate groups and Indigenous activists filed a lawsuit

last year against France’s Casino Group, which has supermarkets around the world, accusing it of violating human rights and environmental rules.

At a court hearing Thursday, the judge ordered both parties to try to reach

an agreement by Sept. 15 through a confidential mediation process. If no agreement can be reached, the case will go to trial.

“We will meet with the mediator before the end of July and see if we can start a mediation process upon

analyzing the Casino proposals,” said Sebastien Mabile, a lawyer for one of the environmental groups.

Casino Group lawyers Sébastien Shapira and Thomas Rouhette told The Associated Press that the France-based supermarket chain “satisfied” with the judge’s move and has always been open to discussion. The company said it is “undoubtedly one of the companies most advanced in combating deforestation,” without elaborating on measures it takes to do so. For the Indigenous movement, the lawsuit against Casino Group is an attempt to hold someone accountable for buying cattle they say is raised illegally in their territory, with activists warning that far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro’s

government policies are further threatening indigenous lands.

Since taking office in 2019, Bolsonaro has repeatedly said that Indigenous peoples have too much land, saying he would revise demarcations, even though such a move is forbidden by law. Cattle ranching is one of the main drivers of deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon, with levels reaching record highs earlier this year. More than 1,000 square kilometers (nearly 400 square miles) were deforested in April, according to satellite alerts. The biome holds about 57 million hectares (140.8 million acres) of pasture, an area slightly larger than France, according to MapBiomas, a network of nonprofits, universities and technology startups. □



Indigenous representatives from Brazil protest outside Paris courthouse, in Paris, Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Associated Press

Thailand makes marijuana legal, but smoking discouraged

By **TASSANEE VEJPONGSA**
and **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand made it legal to cultivate and possess marijuana as of Thursday, like a dream come true for an aging generation of pot smokers who recall the kick delivered by the legendary Thai Stick variety.

The public health minister's plan to distribute 1 million marijuana seedlings, beginning Friday, has added to the impression that Thailand is turning into a weed wonderland.

The decision by the Food and Drug Administration to remove all of the plant from the category of narcotic drugs makes Thailand the first nation in Asia to decriminalize marijuana for medical and industrial use. But it is not following the examples of Uruguay and Canada, the only two countries so far that have legalized recreational marijuana on a national basis.

So far, it appears there will be no effort to police what people can grow and smoke at home, aside from registering to do so and declaring it is for medical purposes.

Some Thai advocates celebrated on Thursday by buying marijuana at a café that had previously been



Entrepreneurs tour a cannabis farm in Chonburi province, eastern Thailand on June 5, 2022.

Associated Press

limited to selling products made from the parts of the plant that do not get people high. The dozen or so people who turned up early at the Highland Café were able to choose from a variety of buds with names such as Sugarcane, Bubblegum, Purple Afghani and UFO.

"I can say it out loud, that I am a cannabis smoker. I don't need to hide like in the past when it was branded as a illegal drug," said 24-year-old Rittipong Bachkul, the day's first customer. Marijuana is also known as

cannabis or ganja in Thailand.

"As far as the government is concerned, it's their job to promote medical use only.

But it is pretty clear that we have come very far and finally are legalizing its use. The government understands that it's more pros than cons," said Rattapon Sanrak, the café's co-owner and a longtime legalization activist.

The country is known for its Thai Stick variety, which is named after the way its potent flowers are dried and

tied into sticks and is the origin of many strains now grown overseas.

Thailand's government has warned that those eager to light up for fun that smoking in public could still be considered a nuisance, subject to a potential 3-month jail sentence and 25,000 baht (\$780) fine. And marijuana extracts, such as oil, remain illegal if they contain more than 0.2% of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the chemical that makes people high.

Tourists should proceed cautiously until the rules be-

come clearer after a new cannabis law is passed, said Prof. Sarana Sommano of Chiang Mai University's Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

"There are still risks. The problem is that cannabis is no longer considered a narcotic but there are no ministry regulations and rules governing the use of it," she said. "There is no mention of limits on use, drug-impaired driving laws. This could be a mistake by the government in trying to rush out its policy to please voters without really planning the details and explaining to the public what's going on,"

Thailand mainly wants to make a splash in the market for medical marijuana. It already has a well-developed medical tourism industry and its tropical climate is ideal for growing cannabis.

"We should know how to use cannabis," Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, a marijuana booster, said recently. "If we have the right awareness, cannabis is like gold, something valuable, and should be promoted."

Some immediate beneficiaries of the change are people who have been locked up for breaking the old law. □



Flood waters sweep through the ancient town of Feng Huang in central China's Hunan province, Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — At least 17 people were killed and four are missing after flooding hit the central Chinese province of Hunan and a landslide buried parts of several villages in the south-

ern Guangxi region, state media reported.

Storms have pummeled Hunan since the beginning of the month, with some monitoring stations reporting historic levels of rainfall,

Flooding, landslides in China leave 17 dead, 4 missing

the Xinhua News Agency said late Wednesday.

As of late Thursday, 10 people were reported dead and three missing in the floods that have affected around 1.8 million people in the largely rural, mountainous province, Xinhua said. It said 286,000 people have been evacuated to safety and more than 2,700 houses have been damaged or collapsed entirely.

In Guangxi, rescue crews were still looking Thursday for survivors in several villages in the area of Beiliu city, where days of rain left hillsides waterlogged and

prone to slippages, Xinhua said. Seven people were confirmed dead in the landslides, one was missing and at least one person was pulled out alive.

Authorities have issued warnings of continued heavy downpours in Guangxi and the nearby provinces of Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Sichuan, Chongqing and Yunnan, Xinhua said.

China regularly experiences flooding during the summer months, most frequently in central and southern areas that tend to receive the most rainfall.

China's worst floods in recent years were in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed, mostly along the Yangtze, China's mightiest river.

The government has invested heavily in flood control and hydroelectric projects such as the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze.

Globally, more intense tropical storms are on the rise as a result of climate change, leading to increased flooding that threatens human lives, crops and groundwater quality. □

Migrants split on whether to keep walking through Mexico

By EDGAR H. CLEMENTE

Associated Press

VILLA COMALTITLÁN, Mexico (AP) — A group of migrants that once numbered as many as 5,000 split on Thursday about whether to keep walking through southern Mexico toward the U.S. border.

A group of about 2,000 mainly younger male migrants set out walking Thursday from the southern town of Huixtla.

But throngs of families with children decided to wait in Huixtla to see if they could get some sort of temporary exit visa. The families were tired after walking some 25 miles since departing the city of Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border, on Monday. The goal of almost all the migrants is to reach the U.S. border. But none of the migrant caravans that have crossed Mexico starting in 2018 have ever walked all the way to the border, which is over 1,000 miles to the north.

While some caravan participants reached the border in the past, it was due to bus or car rides which



Migrants walk on the highway toward the exit to Huixtla, Chiapas state, Mexico, early Thursday, June 9, 2022.

the government now tries to prevent.

Venezuelan migrant Junior Ramírez waited for papers with about 15 members of his extended family at a National Immigration Institute post outside Huixtla, where the migrants slept in the open air on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Up to now they haven't told us whether they are going to give them to us," Ramírez said. "Other migrants have gotten them and left. All we want to do is keep going."

Luis García Villagrán, a migrant advocate traveling with the caravan, said Mexican authorities have been

giving out the equivalent of exit visas, which give migrants between one and three months to leave the country. Theoretically, a migrant carrying such papers will either request asylum or leave Mexico presumably over the U.S. border and wouldn't be sent back to their home country.

Associated Press

Josué Mendoza Rojas and Josmar de Nazaret Cárdenas, two other Venezuelan migrants, were in the same situation in Huixtla, trying to decide whether to keep walking.

"It's all confused," said Mendoza Rojas said, referring to the fact that migrants had tried to draw up their own lists of who would be in line to get papers. "There are about 40 lists, and some people left without papers."

The couple left Venezuela two months ago with their 1-year-old child and applied for an asylum appointment in Tapachula. But they couldn't get an appointment until August, and without enough money to wait until then, they decided to leave and start walking north.

Venezuelans make up a large proportion of this caravan, the biggest of the year, in contrast to previous ones. A factor appears to be a policy change implemented by Mexico in January requiring Venezuelans to acquire a visa to enter the country. □

Documents: Dominican minister slain over denied permits

By MARTÍN ADAMES

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The childhood friend accused of fatally shooting the Dominican Republic's Minister of Environment and Natural Resources this week allegedly did so because he was denied environmental permits he was seeking on behalf of various companies, according to judicial documents obtained Wednesday.

One of the permits that slain former minister Orlando Jorge had denied had been submitted by his longtime friend and now suspect, Fausto Miguel de Jesús Cruz de la Mota, who served as intermediary between the companies and the ministry. That particular permit involved a request to export 5,000 tons (4,500 metric tons) of used batteries, according to the docu-

ments obtained by The Associated Press.

Those permits and others were found inside a briefcase the suspect was carrying when the minister, who is the son of a former president, was shot six times at his office on Monday, the documents state.

Authorities wrote that the suspect was bothered by that particular permit: "It had been denied, but they had resubmitted it."

Shortly after Monday's killing, police arrested Cruz at a church dozens of blocks away after telling a priest he committed a crime and

handed over a gun to him. Authorities also state in the documents that Cruz allegedly took advantage of his ties with Jorge to seek environmental permits given his support during the 2020 campaign for the minister's Modern Revolutionary Party. Jorge, who was a founding member of that party, was appointed minister in August 2020. "I campaigned, and they're not helping me," exclaimed Cruz when he arrived at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources before the shooting on the morning of June 6, according to the documents. "The evidence shows that the accused had been trying to obtain multiple permits but complained angrily that no one was helping him solve anything," the Dominican Republic's Department of Justice said in a statement. It also accused Cruz of

threatening the legal adviser of the ministry less than a month ago.

Authorities stated that after the shooting, they seized Cruz's car and found a 9 mm Uzi with two 30-round magazines each and \$2,000 in cash, among other things. Cruz is the son of Maj. General Fausto Miguel Cruz, who served as commander of the Dominican Republic's Air Force from 1988 to 1990, a spokeswoman told the AP.

He is also a shareholder of a construction company and an armory.

Meanwhile, Jorge, the slain minister, comes from a well-known political family. He is the son of former Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco and his sister is a vice minister in Abinader's administration. Jorge's son is a lawmaker for the Modern Revolutionary Party. □



In this photo provided by Diario Libre, The Dominican Republic's Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Orlando Jorge Mera poses for a publicity photo in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 18, 2022.

Associated Press

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Participants of project Empowered Women Exporters received their certificates



ORANJESTAD - Empowered Women Exporters is a project launched by the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry and its unit Exprodesk.

The export coach of this project was Mrs. Taiana Mora of NEX Consulting.

This project started in July 2019 and consisted of four steps. After almost three years, on Friday, June 3, 2022, a group of six women and one man completed this course. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications, and Sustainable Development, Mr. Geoffrey Wever, presented certificates to Ms. Valeria Gomez, Ms. Suzy Maduro, Ms. Sharina Gumbs, Ms. Vanessa Hollander, Mrs. Virginia Rasmijn, Ms. Osyth Henriquez, and Mr. Dave Martinus.

The goal was to empower and guide women entrepreneurs in Aruba to do business by exporting products and services through training, workshops, and seminars.

After this training, these entrepreneurs decided to create a strategic alliance. Their aim is to interchange knowledge and to

help others with different projects. These participants drafted an Export Action Plan to export their products and services. In step 4, they went through an 'Implementation Lab', where they put into practice what they learned and gave presentations to help other women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses. They also helped many business with the project 'We're Open for Business, during the pandemic.

Exprodesk congratulates the participants of the 'Empowered Women Exporters Project. It also invites all local entrepreneurs interested in expanding their business to know more about how they can also export their products and services in the future by liking their Facebook page.

Exprodesk will organize this year the seminar 'Export Week 2022: Conquering New Horizons', which takes place from June 27 to July 1, 2022. For more information about 'Export Week 2022: Conquering New Horizons' and how to participate, you may contact Sharon Meijer via s.meijer@deaci.aw.



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Post Aruba emits its stamp series 'Marine Life' On a collaboration with Aruba National Park Foundation

On June 8, 2021, which is World Oceans Day, Post Aruba N.V. emits its stamp series 'Marine Life'. This emission was done in collaboration with Aruba National Park Foundation through a nature photography competition held in December 2021.

This stamp emission is accompanied by a First Day Cover envelope that was designed by Mr. Armando Goedgedrag.

Description of the stamps:

Title: Green sea turtle; a local favorite
At Arashi Reef, Aruba by photographer: Kanter Constandse

Photographer Caption:

Locally turtles are probably the most popular find for divers and snorkelers. This sea turtle was resting in a coral bed on a known feeding ground for turtles; Arashi Reef. The key to approaching a turtle without disturbing it is a slow and low approach, breathing out slowly not to create any noise and minimizing movement. The turtle is framed with her natural protection surrounding her, and the coral on top of her like a symbolic crown to her beauty.

Creature description:

Green sea turtle

The green sea turtle live throughout tropical and subtropical seas around the world, with two distinct populations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but it is also found in the Indian Ocean. Globally, the largest populations of sea turtles are in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and the Caribbean Sea.

The diet of green turtles changes with age. Juveniles are carnivorous, but as they mature they become omnivorous. Young sea turtles eat fish eggs, mollusks, jellyfish, small invertebrates, worms, sponges, algae, and crustaceans.

Green sea turtles have a relatively slow growth rate



because of the low nutritional value of their diet. Body fat turns green because of the consumed vegetation. Their serrated jaw helps them chew algae and sea grasses. Most adult sea turtles are strictly herbivorous.

Like other sea turtles, green sea turtles migrate long distances between feeding grounds and hatching beaches. Females crawl out on beaches, dig nests, and lay eggs during the night. Later, hatchlings emerge, and scramble into the water. Those that

reach maturity may live to 90 years in the wild.

It is listed as endangered by the IUCN and CITES and is protected from exploitation in most countries. It is illegal to collect, harm, or kill them. In addition, many countries have laws and ordinances to protect nesting areas. However, turtles are still in danger due to human activity. In some countries, turtles and their eggs are still hunted for food. Pollution indirectly harms turtles at both population and individual scales. Many turtles die after being

caught in fishing nets. In addition, real estate development often causes habitat loss by eliminating nesting beaches.

Title: "Face" of a Flamingo tongue

At Arashi Reef, Aruba by photographer: Vasco v. Baselli

Photographer Caption:

It never ceases to amaze me how much beauty can be discovered when closing in on the tiniest details of the underwater world. In this super macro image, the details of the "face" of

the Flamingo Tongue snail (Cyphoma Gibbosum) come to life, appearing almost to smile. Aruba, The One Happy Island, where even the Flamingo Tongues smile!

Creature description: Flamingo tongue snail

The flamingo tongue snail is a species of small but brightly colored sea snail, that live in the tropical waters of the western Atlantic Ocean, in the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and off the Lesser Antilles. The flamingo tongue snail feeds by browsing on the living tissues of the soft corals on which it lives. Adult females attach eggs to coral which they have recently fed upon. After roughly 10 days, the larvae hatch.

Alive, the snail appears bright orange-yellow in color with black markings. However, these colors are not in the shell, but are only due to live mantle tissue which usually covers the shell. The mantle flaps can be retracted, exposing the shell, but this usually happens only when the animal is attacked.

This species used to be common, but it has become rather uncommon in heavily visited areas because of over collecting by snorkelers and scuba divers, who make the mistake of thinking that the bright colors are in the shell of the animal. □



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE



Savings incentives: How 401(k)s get us to do the right thing

By STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More workers are following experts' advice in saving for retirement, even when finances feel precarious. It's happening because 401(k) plans are using a simple human trait to guide us: our inclination to do nothing. More workers are putting more money into their 401(k) accounts, and they're more often putting it into a reasonable mix of investments. That's according to Vanguard's latest look at the nearly 5 million accounts of 401(k) and similar plans that it keeps records on.

Even amid heavy uncertainty about the economy last year, retirement savers socked away an average of 7.3% of their pay, not including employer matches, according to Vanguard. That's the same level as a year earlier, when the pandemic first struck and threw everything into doubt. And it's up from 6.9% in 2012. Vanguard recommends workers save 12% to 15% of their pay, including any employer match.

More than four out of five workers eligible to contribute to their 401(k) were doing so last year, at 81%. That also held steady from a year earlier, and it was up from 74% in 2012.

The reason for the resiliency? In many cases it was



New \$1 bills with the signatures of U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are cut and stacked at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, Nov. 15, 2017.

because employers made the moves for them.

Over the years, employers have become more likely to enroll workers automatically into the 401(k) plan. Employers have also been starting workers off contributing higher amounts, again automatically.

And as the years roll on, plans are set to automatically increase the percentage of those contributions. Last year, a quarter of all Vanguard 401(k) accounts saw a boost in contributions because of an auto increase.

Workers can opt out of

such measures, but now they have to take an extra step to get out of saving for retirement rather than to get in. And in the field of study known as behavioral finance, that can lead to better outcomes. In other words, inertia wins."I really see the value of it in these unusual years, these years that have a lot of stress and uncertainty where you might expect some reversals of a positive trend, and in fact you don't see it," said David Stinnett, head of Vanguard's strategic retirement consulting group. Many workers are also

avoiding too-risky or too-conservative investment mixes because their savings are in a target-date retirement fund that takes care of such decisions — again because it's the automatic choice in many plans.

In part because of that, the median 401(k) balance rose to \$35,345 last year. That's up from a median of \$33,472 a year before and from \$27,843 in 2012.

To see how powerful inertia can be, consider the difference in participation rates at plans where employers automatically enroll workers into the 401(k) versus

those where employees must sign up themselves. The auto-enroll programs saw 93% of eligible workers save in the 401(k) last year. The participation rate was just 66% in plans where workers had to volunteer.

A challenge going forward may depend on whether the "Great Resignation" that's taken hold across the economy continues.

When workers leave their jobs either to move to a new one or to retire, they can cash out their 401(k) balances. Experts discourage this, calling it retirement "leakage."

Not only can a cash out invite taxes and penalties, it also means workers don't benefit from the magic of compounding their savings over the years.

Such cash outs often occur among lower-income workers with smaller balances, said Amber Brestowski, head of advice and client experience for Vanguard Institutional Investor Group. With millions of workers quitting their jobs every month, the potential for such leakage is increasing.

Brestowski said Vanguard is working with employers in hopes of keeping cashouts low. The industry is also working on ways to move workers' savings from their old employer's 401(k) plan to their new one to stem leakage, again automatically. □

Associated Press

Airlines blast EU plan to expand emissions rule for flights

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — An aviation industry group representing most major airlines criticized the European Union's Parliament on Thursday for seeking to expand its emissions trading system to all flights departing the bloc.

EU lawmakers voted Wednesday that existing requirements for airlines to buy credits for the greenhouse gas emissions that their flights produce should be extended to include all

that leave the 27-nation bloc, Norway and Iceland. Current rules only apply to flights within that area.

The International Air Transport Association warned Thursday that such a move could undermine a separate international agreement, known as CORSIA, that allows airlines to buy credits to offset their emissions. Critics, however, say that system isn't effective enough.

The IATA, which claims to represent about 290 airlines accounting for over

83% of global air traffic, said expanding the EU's emissions trading system as planned would also cause a "serious distortion of competition and weaken the global competitive position of EU airlines and hubs. "This decision by the European Parliament is disturbing because it endangers international cooperation to tackle aviation's climate change impacts," IATA's director general, Willie Walsh, said in a statement.

He urged EU nations to re-



A cargo Boeing 777 of China Southern Airlines flying from Amsterdam to Shanghai is silhouetted against the sun as it flies over the village of Podolye, 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of St. Petersburg, Russia, on Oct. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

ject the plan and commit to negotiating a global agreement on aviation emissions. □

CROSSWORD

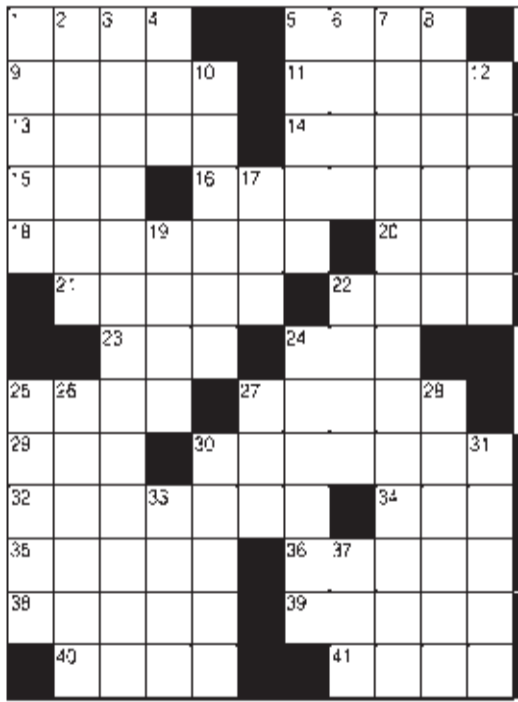
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 Tequila
 - 1 Accord source
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 - 38 Perfume
 - 39 Fishing spots
 - 9 Spoken
 - 11 Military info
 - 40 Regarding
 - 41 Sibilant summons
 - 13 Play place
 - 14 Like snakes
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 - 16 Small loud-speaker
 - 18 Craft show's cousin
 - 20 Slippery stuff
 - 21 "Now you —, now you don't"
 - 22 Goes bad
 - 23 Operated
 - 24 Mafia head
 - 25 Red-ink amount
 - 27 Idiots
 - 29 Go astray
 - 30 Old newspaper district of New York
 - 32 Cargo workers
 - 34 Yale student
 - 35 Preferences



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 8 Choose
 - 26 Beethoven
 - 1 Turkish
 - 10 Hold up work
 - 2 Church
 - 12 Harp's
 - 27 Butter
 - 3 Bike
 - 17 Funny
 - 28 Cracks
 - 18 Craft
 - 19 Accom-
 - 30 Green
 - 4 Harbor
 - 22 Corner
 - 31 Dianne of
 - 5 Stair part
 - 23 Corner
 - 6 In the past
 - 24 Kind
 - 33 Car
 - 7 Show
 - 25 Valleys
 - 37 Opening



6-10

AXYDLBAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

HLN OND ILFLKMLD ZTI NRR
KMZZMSARHMLD, NGK MSJK
HLN OND NGDYIID ZTI NRR
CITVRIED NGK IOL DAFFLI
OLNH — AGQGTYG
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HAPPINESS IS THE RICHEST THING WE WILL EVER OWN.
DONALD DUCK

FTC Chair Khan plans key work on kids' data privacy online

By MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Federal Trade Commission says the agency is pushing a robust agenda of actions and policies to help safeguard children's privacy online. The ongoing work will include toughened enforcement of a long-standing law governing kids' online privacy and eyeing the algorithms used by social media platforms targeting young people.

"Children's privacy is enormously important and we want to make sure we're doing everything we can ... to vigorously protect children's privacy and protect them from data abuses," said Lina Khan, who has led the consumer-protection agency for a year. She spoke in an interview over Zoom with The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Around the country, parents' concern has deepened over the impact of social media on kids. Frances Haugen, a former Facebook data scientist, stunned Congress and the public last fall when she brought to light internal company research showing apparent serious harm to some teens from Facebook's Instagram platform. Those revelations were followed by senators grilling executives from YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat about what they're doing to ensure young users' safety in the wake of suicides and other harms to teens attributed by their parents to their usage of the platforms.

The recent tide of mass shootings has also highlighted the power of social media and its influence on



Lina Khan, nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), speaks during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation confirmation hearing, April 21, 2021 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

young people.

The FTC recently warned that it will crack down on education-technology companies if they illegally surveil children when they go online to learn. The agency noted that it is against the law for companies to force parents "to surrender their children's privacy rights in order to do schoolwork online or attend class remotely." Khan said Wednesday the FTC had heard complaints from parents who, when the pandemic struck in 2020, had to suddenly make that choice.

The so-called edtech companies have apps and websites that are used by hundreds of thousands of students in school districts around the country. The children's online privacy law prohibits companies from requiring that children provide more information than is needed, and restricts using students' personal data for marketing purposes.

Among a host of other enforcement actions, the FTC in March required WW International, formerly

known as Weight Watchers, in a settlement to delete information illegally collected from children under 13 as well as algorithms developed by the company's weight-loss app for children as young as eight. The company also paid a \$1.5 million penalty.

President Joe Biden stunned official Washington about a year ago when he installed Khan, an energetic critic of Big Tech then teaching law, as head of the FTC. That signaled a tough government stance toward giants Facebook (its parent now is called Meta Platforms), Google, Amazon and Apple, which already have been under pressure from Congress, state attorneys general and European regulators.

At 33, Khan is the youngest chair in the 107-year history of the FTC, an independent agency with five commissioners and around 1,200 employees.

She carried intellectual heft, though, that translated into political traction. Khan burst onto the anti-trust scene in 2017 with her massive scholarly work as a Yale law student, "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox." She helped lay the foundation for a new way of looking at antitrust law beyond the impact of big-company market dominance on consumer prices. That school of thought appears to have had a heavy influence on Biden. □

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Double whammy: Both farmers and consumers hit by high prices



A Taliban fighter stands guard as people receive food rations distributed by a Chinese humanitarian aid group, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, April 30, 2022.

By FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press
ROME (AP) — Food import bills will reach a record high this year and food markets are likely to tighten around the world, according to a glum new forecast by a U.N. food agency. The Food Outlook, issued twice a year by the Food and Agriculture Organization, also found that "many vulnerable countries are paying more but receiving less food" in imports. The report issued Thursday by the Rome-based agency noted that developing countries are reducing imports of cereals, oilseeds and meats, reflecting their inability to cover the price increases.

The forecast cited "soaring input prices, concerns about the weather, and increased market uncertainties stemming from the war in Ukraine," which has seen millions of tons of grain stuck in silos and unable to be shipped abroad from that major agricultural exporter due to the Russian invasion. With Ukraine's next grain harvest due within weeks, and no imminent sign of a

let-up in the war unleashed by Russia on its neighbor, the food security of import-dependent countries in Africa and the Middle East could worsen. Its forecast points to a "likely tightening of food markets and import bills reaching a new record high," said Upali Galketi Aratchilage, an FAO economist and lead editor of the report. The outlook discussed how agricultural sectors are struggling with rising costs of production, especially fertilizer and fuel, which could trigger further increases in food prices. Russia and its ally Belarus are major exporters of fertilizer. But while international sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine

haven't targeted food exports, sanctions regarding Russian shipping and insurance for such shipping has complicated logistics for Russian farm exports. Spiking prices for agricultural production products could call into question whether the world's farmers can afford to buy them, wrote FAO experts in markets and trade. That scenario applies to major exporting countries as well, the report said. Some North American farmers are shifting from maize to soy, which requires less nitrogen fertilizer, the report noted. All these factors point to "low (and falling) real prices for farmers, despite the high prices faced by consumers," FAO said.

Based on current conditions, the situation does "not augur well for a market-led supply response that could conceivably rein in further increases in food process for the 2022/23 season and possibly the next," the report said. □

Associated Press

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Review: Chaos reigns in 'Jurassic World: Dominion'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

The enduring, collective love for "Jurassic Park" is immensely hard to explain. Steven Spielberg's 1993 film implanted itself into our cultural consciousness as a kind of platonic ideal of a blockbuster. And it wasn't just the 10-year-olds having a formative experience at the movie theater. Most everyone, it seems, including those who were adults at the time and those who wouldn't be born for another decade or more, has a story about just how much that movie means to them. It doesn't even matter how many times you watch it, or how much better special effects get: "Jurassic Park" never tarnishes, it just remains perfectly preserved in amber.

It's hard to fault anyone for trying to recapture that magic — a filmmaker, a studio, or an audience looking for a fun time at the movies. Even Spielberg himself had trouble. But now, somehow, we're six movies and three decades in and about as far as one could get from the spark that made that first one so special as we supposedly bid farewell to the "Jurassic World" era with "Jurassic World: Dominion."

I can't say I didn't have some real fun with "Dominion." There is an exceedingly well-done motorcycle



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt, Isabella Sermon and DeWanda Wise in a scene from "Jurassic World Dominion."

chase through the streets of Taos, immense pleasure in watching Sam Neill, Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum together again and the fun addition of a hotshot pilot played by DeWanda Wise. And there is wall-to-wall action that makes the almost two and a half hour runtime go by swiftly. But I also can't say that I didn't burst out laughing several times at parts that were not designed to be funny.

"Jurassic World: Dominion" is a chaotic mishmash on an epic scale and, believe it or not, the dinosaurs (who look great) are almost be-

side the point. After the events of "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," dinosaurs are just...around. There's even a black-market operation in Taos that is so elaborate, you'd think we were 30 years into a post-dino dystopia and not just several years after dinos escaped into the wild. But, again, "Dominion" isn't really about the dinosaurs. It's about locusts and tech giants.

A company called Biosin is the big bad here and it's run by a man named Lewis Dodgson (now played by Campbell Scott) who, you

might recall, was the guy looking to buy the embryos in the first film.

Dodgson has morphed from a sweaty Gordon Gekko-type on vacation into a Steve Jobs-ian visionary who is still up to no good and after profits. Dern's Ellie Sattler suspects that they're behind a locust epidemic that's destroying all the food that isn't grown with Biosin seed and decides to use it as an excuse to team up with Neill's Alan Grant again for the first time in years. Conveniently, Biosin is also where Goldblum's Ian Malcolm is an in-house

public intellectual. And they're also looking for the clone girl, Maisie (Isabella Sermon), from the last film. She's been in hiding with Owen (Chris Pratt) and Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard) for the past few years. There is a lot of elaborate wheel-spinning and globe-trotting to get everyone to the Biosin headquarters in the Dolomites, a Bond villain complex that's surrounded by a dino sanctuary.

It's a lot of people too. At some points, there are eight running from dinosaurs together. Oddly, this doesn't have the effect of upping the stakes. It's more like watching a tour group at an experiential amusement park exhibit, which might have something to do with the lingering problem that it may not be fun to watch the dinosaurs run amok anymore, no matter how big they've gotten.

Colin Trevorrow is back in the director's chair and shares a writing credit with Emily Carmichael, who adds value and wit to the proceedings, but it's hard to say what it all adds up to. It's fun at times and silly at others. But it doesn't course correct enough to redeem this franchise or bring it back to Earth. "Jurassic World" started too big. There was nowhere to grow, except at the box office. □

Associated Press



Jeff Beck appears at the 59th Ivor Novello Awards in London on May 22, 2014, left, and Johnny Depp appears at the European premiere of their film, "The Rum Diary," in London on Nov. 3, 2011.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh off

his legal battle with his ex-wife, Johnny Depp has announced that he and leg-

Johnny Depp and Jeff Beck announce new joint album, '18'

endary guitarist Jeff Beck will release an album of mostly covers next month. The duo's 13-track album is titled "18" and will drop on July 15. They said they titled the album after the creative outburst they felt working together. "We would joke about how we felt 18 again, so that just became the album title, too," Beck said in a statement.

The album contains covers of The Velvet Underground's "Venus In Furs," the Everly Brothers' ballad "Let It Be Me" and Marvin

Gaye's soul classic "What's Going On." There also are versions of Davy Spillane's "Midnight Walker" and two songs from the Beach Boys' masterpiece, "Pet Sounds" — "Caroline, No" and "Don't Talk (Put Your Head On My Shoulder)." Depp supplied two originals, including "This Is A Song For Miss Hedy Lamarr," the set's first single. The cover of the album — a sketch of two young men in white T-shirts — was designed by Beck's wife, Sandra.

Depp, long a member of

the rock group Hollywood Vampires with Alice Cooper and Joe Perry, started recording with Beck in 2019, and Depp has joined Beck's current European tour.

Earlier this month, a jury sided with Depp in his defamation lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard, awarding the "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor more than \$10 million and vindicating his allegations that Heard defamed him by accusing him of abusing her before and during their brief marriage. □

Allyson Felix has 'no regrets' after placing 7th in Rome

ROME (AP) — Allyson Felix had "no regrets" after a seventh-place finish in the 200 meters of what was likely her final Diamond League meet Thursday.

It made no difference to Felix — the most decorated female track athlete in Olympic history who plans to retire later this season — that she wasn't really competitive amid an elite field at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea.

Shericka Jackson led a Jamaican 1-2 ahead of teammate and two-time reigning Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah in a meet-record 21.91 seconds.

Felix finished more than a full second behind Jackson.

"I'm glad that I came here, glad that I got to see everybody and I'm looking forward to the next chapter," the 36-year-old Felix said. "It's definitely emotional, mixed feelings. But no regrets. I'm really grateful for all the years I had."

Jackson pulled away in the final 30 meters and finished a full stride ahead of Thompson-Herah, who clocked 22.25 to narrowly edge world champion Dina Asher-Smith (22.27).

Jackson failed to advance out of the heats at the Tokyo Olympics when she slowed down too much



Allyson Felix of the United States reacts at the finish line of the women's 200-meter competition at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting in Rome, Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Associated Press

before the finish in a miscalculation.

American sprinter Fred Kerley was the only man to break the 10-second barrier in the 100, posting a season-best 9.92 with a big

enough margin to start celebrating before he crossed the finish line.

The 100 was missing Marcell Jacobs, the Italian who won gold ahead of Kerley in Tokyo and then helped

Italy to another unexpected victory in the 4x100 relay.

Jacobs, who is recovering from a muscular injury, was in attendance at the Stadio Olimpico to salute

the crowd, though, as the meet celebrated the seven Italians who won Olympic gold in athletics last year.

Lorenzo Patta, Eseosa Desalu and Filippo Tortu — the other members of Italy's 4x100 team in Tokyo — competed in a 200 that was won by Olympic silver medalist Kenny Bednarek in 20.01.

Gianmarco Tamberi, the Tokyo high jump winner, settled for third in his home stadium as JuVaughn Harrison cleared 2.27 for the win.

Athing Mu, who last year became the first American woman to win the 800 at the Olympics in more than a half century, posted a world-leading 1:57.01 in her first overseas Diamond League meet.

Hirut Meshesha, a 21-year-old from Ethiopia, picked up her second Diamond League win in five days, taking the women's 1,500 by a comfortable margin in 4:03.79 to follow up her victory in Rabat, Morocco, on Sunday.

Also, Slovenia's Kristjan Čeh took his third Diamond League victory of the season in the men's discus with a meet-record throw of 70.72; and two-time Olympic silver medalist Joe Kovacs of the United States won the shot put at 21.85. □

Ángel Hernández asks appeals court to reinstate suit vs MLB

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyers for Ángel Hernández claim Major League Baseball manipulated the umpire's evaluations, renewing the allegation in an attempt to reinstate the racial discrimination lawsuit he lost last year.

Hernandez's lawyers made the claim in a filing Tuesday to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, trying to overturn the summary judgment U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken granted to MLB in March 2021.

The Cuba-born Hernández was hired as a big league umpire in 1993. He sued in 2017, alleging he was discriminated against because he had not been assigned to the World Series since 2005 and had been passed over for crew chief.

Hernández served as an interim crew chief from 2011-16, at the start of the pandemic-delayed 2020 season and for part of the 2021 season but has not been made a permanent crew chief.

Citing the 2011-16 seasons, Hernández's attorneys said in the brief to the appellate court that "MLB manipulated Mr. Hernandez's year-end evaluations in order to make his job performance appear worse than it actually was. Mr. Hernández's year-end evaluations for the 2011-2016 seasons do not even come close to accurately summarizing Mr. Hernández's actual performance in those seasons."

In an August 2020 brief responding to a similar allegation, MLB called the claim "devoid of merit."

Hernández's lawyers wrote "the District Court failed to follow existent precedent applicable to discrimination cases in which the pool of minority individuals eligible for promotion is too small to yield a statistically significant conclusion as to disparate impact."

Kerwin Danley became the first Black crew chief in 2020 and Alfonso Marquez became the first Hispanic crew chief born outside the

United States. Richie Garcia, who was born in Florida, was the first Hispanic crew chief from 1985-89.

Oetken wrote, "Hernández attempts to rely on the inexorable zero,' or the notion that courts should set aside statistical analyses in circumstances where few minorities or women have been employed. While the inexorable zero may be compelling in the case of a larger employer who has hired or promoted no minority candidates, it is less compelling in the present context, where both the pool of umpires and the number of available promotions are small." Oetken in January denied Hernández's motion to alter, amend or vacate his decision, leaving an appeal to the circuit court as the next step, Hernández has been at times controversial on the field. He had three calls at first base overturned in video reviews during Game 3 of the 2018 AL Division Series between the New York Yankees and Boston. □

PGA Tour says Saudi-paid players no longer eligible for tour



Dustin Johnson of the United States, left, and Phil Mickelson of the United States greet each other on the first tee during the first round of the inaugural LIV Golf Invitational at the Centurion Club in St. Albans, England, Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Associated Press

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson launched tee shots in the Saudi-funded golf league on Thursday, and it wasn't long before the PGA Tour said its players who took part were no longer welcome, even if they already had resigned. PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan held a hard line on his pledge that players could choose one tour or the other, but not both. Those who had resigned from the PGA Tour — Graeme McDowell said he did so 30 minutes before he teed off — were no longer eligible on any PGA Tour circuit. Those who remained members, such as Mickelson, were suspended.

"These players have made their choice or their own financial-based reasons," Monahan said in a memo to his membership. "But they can't demand the same PGA Tour membership benefits, considerations, opportunities and platform as you."

Ian Poulter said he would appeal the ruling. McDowell said he wanted to "keep the high moral ground" by

resigning to try to keep litigation to a minimum. He thinks suspensions are a healthy way to go about business.

Mickelson had nothing to say except that he didn't want to talk about the PGA Tour in his first tournament in four months, only to confirm he will play all eight of the LIV events, five of which will be in the United States.

When told that people were interested in his situation, Mickelson replied, "I'm very flattered so many people are interested."

Still to be determined is whether those players are ever welcome back. For now, Monahan made it clear that the suspensions include the Presidents Cup — the International team (countries outside Europe) is determined by the world ranking. Monahan said the players who resigned will have their names removed from the PGA Tour standings — FedEx Cup and Presidents Cup — after this week. He said the tour will make sure those who haven't resigned will not affect rankings on various lists of tour players.

The USGA already has said

eligible players can still compete in the U.S. Open next week. The PGA Tour does not run the majors.

PGA champion Justin Thomas and four-time major champion Rory McIlroy welcomed the decision from the tour stop this week at the Canadian Open.

"I think anybody that's shocked clearly hasn't been listening to the message that Jay and everybody's been putting out," Thomas said. "They took that risk going into it, whether they thought it was a risk or not. I have great belief and great confidence in the PGA Tour and where we're going and continuing to grow to, and those guys just aren't going to be a part of it."

Ten players have resigned from the PGA Tour, a list that includes Johnson and Sergio Garcia. Mickelson, who has lifetime membership with 45 PGA Tour titles, is among those who has not.

LIV Golf, run by Greg Norman and funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, responded to the tour's decision by calling it vindictive and divisive.

"It's troubling that the tour, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for golfers to play the game, is the entity blocking golfers from playing," LIV Golf said. "This certainly is not the last word on this topic. The era of free agency is beginning as we are proud to have a full field of players joining us in London, and beyond."

At issue is players competing without a conflicting event release from the PGA Tour. Players typically receive three such releases a year for tournaments overseas. Monahan denied releases for the LIV Golf Invitational because it is an eight-tournament series that plans to compete directly with the PGA Tour in the United States.

The tour does not allow releases for events in North America.

"We have followed the tournament regulations from start to finish in responding to those players who have decided to turn their backs on the PGA Tour by willfully violating a regulation," he wrote.

LIV Golf has paid enormous signing fees, with The Daily Telegraph reporting \$150

million for Johnson and Mickelson declining to dispute reports he was paid \$200 million. Both are more than Tiger Woods' career earnings on the PGA Tour. Norman has said LIV would support the players even if it wound up in the courts. McDowell said some players already have spoken to lawyers.

"We haven't been issued releases. We feel like we should have been issued releases. We've done it for the last 20 years, operated all over the world," McDowell said. "Listen, we all know the situation is about something bigger. It's competition and it's not liked. They are having to play the game the way they feel they have to play it, which is playing hard ball."

The European tour has not said whether it would suspend its players. It has an alliance with the PGA Tour commercially, including the first co-sanctioned events this year on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The first test for PGA Tour players figures to be the Travelers Championship in Connecticut, the week after the U.S. Open. Johnson was among those listed in the field.

The LIV Golf Invitational was being streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Before the opening round, Norman said he was thrilled to see an effort 30 years in the making come to fruition.

He tried to start a World Golf Tour in the 1990s for only the elite players and had a TV contract lined up until the PGA Tour quashed the moment with support from Arnold Palmer. That circuit never got off the ground.

This one did, with the backing of riches the likes of which golf has never seen. Each tournament offers \$25 million in prize money, with \$4 million for the individual winner. The PGA Tour's richest event is The Players Championship at \$20 million. The Canadian Open this week, which has five of the top-10 players in the world, has an \$8.7 million purse. □